

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 NIC-01 /076 W

----- 036154

R 051320Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1953

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT; LIBYAN

REACTION TO EXECUTION OF MUSLIM PREACHERS

IN SOMALIA

1. SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER GHALEB LEFT TRIPOLI FEB.
4 AFTER SHORT VISIT, DURING WHICH HE MET PRIME MINISTER
JALLUD. FOREIGN MINISTER AL-HUNI WAS NOT IN EVIDENCE.
IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT, GHALEB SAID HIS TALKS WITH
JALLUD HAD BEEN "FILLED WITH MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND
BROTHERHOOD, SUCCESSFUL AND FRUITFUL". ASKED ABOUT
SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN BORDER DISPUTE, HE SAID NOTABLY:
"THE MATTER IS NOT ONE OF BORDERS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES,
BUT MATTER OF GIVING THE SOMALI PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN
OCCUPIED TERRITORY RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION".

2. COMMENT: AMONG MATTERS GHALEB CAME TO DISCUSS
WERE PRESUMABLY LIBYAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA, AND
RECENT EXECUTION OF MUSLIM LEADERS THERE (MOGADISCIO
107). THERE HAS BEEN NO CRITICISM OF THIS ACTION IN
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LIBYAN PRESS, AND IT MAY BE THAT QADHAFI, WHO HAS

HIS OWN PROBLEMS WITH RELIGIOUS CONSERVATIVES, IS SYMPATHETIC TO SIAD, ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY DOES NOT APPROVE OF DRACONIAN EXECUTIONS. QADHAFI'S ISLAM IS APPARENTLY DEVOUT BUT OF REFORM VARIETY. HE HAS SCANDALIZED LOCAL CONSERVATIVES BY ORDERING WOMEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO DO MILITARY TRAINING, FOR EXAMPLE, AND HAD PUBLIC ROW WITH LIBYAN MUFTI OVER TAXES AND INTEREST ON LOANS. DESPITE HIS REPUTATION AS A FANATIC, IN LIBYAN CONTEXT HE IS SOMETHING OF A LIBERAL ON SUCH MATTERS.
STEIN

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NNN

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